



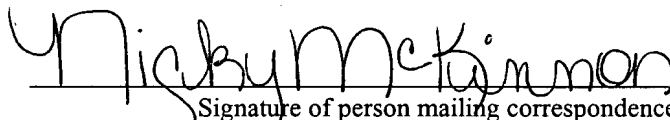
PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bruce A. Littlefield *et al.*

Art Unit: 1625

Serial No.: 09/334,488

Examiner: A. Owens

Filed: June 16, 1999

Title: Macrocyclic Analogs and Methods of Their Use and Preparation

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In reply to the Notice of Allowability that was mailed in the above-captioned case on May 19, 2000, applicants submit the following comments.

The allowed claims are drawn to particular halichondrin analogs, as well as methods of identifying agents that induce a sustained mitotic block in a cell. The Examiner states in the "Reasons for Allowance" that these claims are allowable because "the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed compounds." Referring to U.S. Patent No. 5,338,865, which claims compounds that can be used in the synthesis of halichondrin B, the Examiner further states that "the compounds differ from the claimed